

NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
28 Jul 2022

The meeting was called to order by Roseann Meixelsperger at 5:30 p.m. at the Spooner Ag. Station conference room.

Present were: Roseann Meixelsperger, Donna Amidon, Linda Zillmer, Jill Schmalz-Washkuhn, Terri Johnson, Barb Boatman, Nancy Reis, Terrie Strand, Jessie Crane, Deb Studley and Kevin Schoessow.

Minutes of June 23, 2022 were corrected as follows: Children's Garden: Roseann has established a little free library offering children's gardening books and new this year, seed packets. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Jill Washkuhn reported a current balance of \$3,035.04 which remained the same from June 30, 2022. The report was approved as presented.

WIMGA Update: Roseann reported there will be a WIMGA Board Meeting in August. The recent WIMGA-sponsored webinar on extending the growing season by Meg Cowden will be available online until August 26, 2022, through a link on the www.wimga.org website.

Teaching and Display Garden: Terri Johnson reported problems with aphids and Japanese beetles in the perennial garden. Some volunteer plants have grown in pathways. There was discussion on whether there were plants that needed to be divided which could be potted up and sold at the TGT. Kevin stated there were ½ gallon and 1 gallon pots available for our use in the potato shed. Terri felt the garden was just beginning to fill in from recent plantings after a tree was removed and didn't see a need for dividing plants this year. After discussing the issues with bringing plants from private homes to sell, a motion was made by Deb Studley and seconded by Linda Zillmer to not offer any potted-up plants from the garden or private homes to sell this year at the TGT. Motion passed. Terri stated there needed to be more clean up in the perennial garden before the TGT. Kevin mentioned that "teachable moment" signs could be printed by Lorraine and posted to explain problem areas due to insects, etc.

Children's Garden: Roseann reported that all the tomatoes in the children's garden were hail damaged this spring but have grown well and even needed trimming back recently.

Pinwheel Gardens: Potato beetles and larva as well as sand chafers are present.

Grapes: At least 500 Japanese beetles have been killed this year in the grape vines. Any eggs laid in the sod will hatch another crop next year so we could have 2,000 beetles next year.

Twilight Garden Tour:

- Donna passed around a sign-up sheet for tasks that need to be completed.
- In case of rain, the TGT will be cancelled.
- Speakers lined up are Brian Hudelson from the Disease Diagnostic Lab of UW- Madison, a Seed to Kitchen graduate student and Renee Essenmacher, DNR forester.
- After discussion, it was decided not to offer any homemade salsa or chips. **Roseann reiterated per Master Gardener directives contained in Onboarding Lite, we are in the horticulture business, not the food handling business.**
- Kevin suggested offering visitors the chance to put their name in a hat to draw for a vegetable give away.
- Another suggestion was to invite people to bring samples of diseased garden plants for identification.
- Small 10 oz. water bottles will be purchased by Jill Washkuhn and offered to visitors in tubs of ice.
- Recycling containers will be placed nearby with signage to collect empties.
- A porta-potty has been ordered.
- Parking will be directed to the field north of the garden near the seed to kitchen hoop gardens.
- A flyer will be developed and sent email to all on the NCMGVA mailing list to print out and take to area businesses.
- Other PR will be directed to local newspapers as public service announcements.
- The station personnel will assist with setting up a big tent, tables, and chairs.
- A handout will be developed to be handed out at the welcome table with the agenda and activities available.

- It was suggested to ask Regan Kohler, managing editor of the Spooner Advocate for a photographer to document the event.

Website, blogs and Facebook: Publicity for the TGT will be shared on all mediums.

On-line reporting system (ORS): We are all aware of the need to complete the on-boarding requirements and record volunteer and education hours in order to retain active master gardener volunteer status.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Linda Zillmer and Vicki Gee-Treft will provide a NCMGVA display at the upcoming Washburn County Fair, July 28 – July 31st.
- Kevin will also provide a display with cucumbers just starting to harvest.
- LCO Family Fair, August 4th in Hayward from 2-6 p.m. Roseann will be demonstrating how to grow sage plants using plastic water bottles and a wick system.

Upcoming Events:

- The Ashland/Bayfield County Master Gardener Association would like to invite North Country MG's to attend a workshop "Bee Engaged with Pollinators" to be held on September 24 at the David R. Obey Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, WI. Attendees must be Master Gardeners and/or Master Naturalists to attend. See attached poster. Space is limited. For more information or to register for this event, please see the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bee-engaged-with-pollinators-tickets-32500265067>

Elections: Officers will be nominated in August. A slate of officers will be nominated by the Board of Directors. Elections will be held at the annual meeting in September. Officers elected will begin to serve in January, 2023. Positions to be filled are for:

President – Vice President shall assume the Presidency after serving as Vice-President one year.

Vice-President – Two year term

Secretary – Two year term

Director – Two year term

The next meeting will be held August 25, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the Ag. Station meeting room or Display garden.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deb Studley
Secretary